

Worksession

Agenda Item #	9
Meeting Date	6/14/04
Prepared By	Catherine Waters, City Clerk/Treasurer Alfred Lott, Public Works Director
Approved By	Wayne Hobbs, Deputy Mgr.

Discussion Item	Speed Hump Petitions - Elm Avenue
Background	<p>City Clerk / Treasurer:</p> <p>In December 2003, a petition for a speed hump on Elm Avenue, between Heather and Larch (specifically between Heather and Linda Lane) was submitted by the residents of Linden Lane, and Elm, Heather and Larch Avenues. The petition meets the minimum requirement of signatures from at least 2/3 of the eligible households, with 79% of the eligible signatures.</p> <p>Pursuant to the requirements of Administrative Regulation No. 96-01, the speed hump request was discussed by the affected community association (South of Sligo Citizens Association (SOSCA)).</p> <p>Public Works Director:</p> <p>a. WSSC is planning to conduct extensive water main work on Elm Avenue with in the next 18 months. They have coordinated with the City to avoid cutting recently paved streets. Consequently, road renovations on Elm Avenue have been postponed until the 2006 paving season.</p> <p>b. The City of Takoma Park could install temporary (rubber or hard plastic) speed bumps for approximately \$800.00 per bump. Since these temporary bumps are designed for parking lots and short term road utilization, they could require significant maintenance over time and lose any cost benefit. In comparison, the cost of an permanent asphalt concrete speed hump is approximately \$900.00.</p>
Policy	Under the requirements of the Speed Hump Petition Process, a successful petition must have support of 2/3 or greater, of the eligible households.
Fiscal Impact	\$900 / speed hump
Attachments	SOSCA Letter

Recommendation	<p>City Clerk / Treasurer:</p> <p>Consider petition and provide direction on next steps. Staff recommends scheduling a public hearing on June 21 with consideration of a 1st Reading Ordinance on the same evening, and consideration of the 2nd Reading Ordinance on July 6.</p> <p>Public Works Director:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That the speed hump or humps are installed when the Elm Avenue is renovated. 2. If the City Council decides to install interim/temporary speed humps; that asphalt concrete humps are installed because they will require no maintenance, and there is a slight difference in costs compared to the nonconcrete temporary humps.
Special Consideration	

April 14, 2004

Mayor Kathy Porter
City of Takoma Park
7500 Maple Avenue
Takoma Park, MD 20912

Dear Mayor Porter:

Thank you for participating in the March 25 meeting of the South of Sligo Community Association (SOSCA). The meeting was convened to assess community support for or opposition to a petition requesting one or more speed-bumps or other traffic-calming devices in the One Thousand block of Elm Avenue, between Larch and Heather. Support for the petition and its goals was very strong. Accordingly, SOSCA requests that the matter be added to the Council agenda for discussion and action at the earliest appropriate opportunity. Thank you for your attention to this serious safety concern. A description of the meeting follows:

Nicole Berner-Kadish (1012 Elm Ave), one of the organizers of the petition, opened the discussion with her views on why a traffic calming device was needed on her block. Ms. Berner-Kadish explained that the block is used as a cut-through by cars coming both to and from Sligo Creek Parkway, thus the volume of cars is disproportionately large for a small residential street. In addition, there is no stop sign at the top of Heather coming up the street, or along the long block between Heather and Larch and cars tend to drive quite quickly as they pass through the neighborhood. Particularly the Northern part of the block is quite narrow, and only a small fraction of the block has any sidewalk. Thus, pedestrians, parked cars and two-way traffic all share the very narrow street. Another neighbor involved in the speed bump petition Michael Lutsky (1014 Elm) echoed these sentiments. Mr. Lutsky also spoke of the noise of speeding cars in front of his home and added that -- in contrast to only a few years ago -- the block now has a large number of families with small children. Mr. Lutsky expressed concern for the safety of these children. A number of other residents of the immediate area spoke out in favor of the speed bump petition. Many told personal experiences of walking along the block and having cars drive by at excessive speeds. Former SOSCA President Sally Taber noted that the One Thousand block of Elm Ave. was identified as a traffic cut-through in the traffic study that had been conducted a number of years back. As a result of that study, a number of speed bumps were installed in the neighborhood, but not on this block. Greg Seekins, who lives on Ethan Allen Avenue, stated that he was "philosophically opposed to speed bumps" and that he "did not think the speed bump would solve the problems" raised in the meeting. At the end of the discussion a vote was taken. In total, 13 voted in favor of the petition, 2 abstained, and 1 voted against.

Sincerely,

Robbi Kimball
President, SOSCA